

Remarks

These Remarks are in reply to the Advisory Action mailed January 5, 2005.

Claims 1-26 and 28-63 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Advisory Action. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that he did not consider claims 57-63 (added in the Reply filed November 17, 2004) because they allegedly raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. In order to expedite issuance of claims 1-26 and 28-56, Applicants are presently canceling claims 57-63 without prejudice or disclaimer to the inventions therein.

Comments Regarding Previously Submitted Electronic IDSs

An electronic IDS was filed on June 30, 2004, and has been entered into the USPTO's PAIR system. However, Applicants have not received an initialed copy of that IDS, indicating consideration of the references therein by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the June 30, 2004 electronic IDS and send back an initialed copy thereof.

Another electronic IDS was filed on November 17, 2004. However, this IDS fails to show up on the USPTO's PAIR system. Accordingly, Applicants have attached a copy of the November 17, 2004 IDS hereto, along with its Acknowledgement Receipt. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the November 17, 2004 electronic IDS and send back an initialed copy thereof.

The remaining claims (i.e., 1-26 and 28-56) have been indicated to be allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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